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STATINTL

Not Outrage, But Pride

When Harriet Van Horne limits her comments to reviewing radio and TV programs she is clearly on solid ground.

Her diversions into national and foreign affairs, however, find her completely out of her depth.

A case in point is Miss Van Horne's column of May 5th which commented on the NBC-TV program on the Central Intelligence Agency.

The question she quotes—"If to survive and remain free we must adopt the ruthless tactics of our enemies, are we ultimately the victors or the vanquished?"—has already been answered by history.

When America faced up to the menace of Hitler we waged a cruel and destructive war, necessarily using the tactics needed to achieve victory. Miss Van Horne may be a little hazy on this point but I don't know anyone else who would question that as a nation we not merely survived, were not merely victorious, we remained a free democracy despite the ruthless tactics we were forced to employ.

Miss Van Horne succumbed to mistaking her personal idiosyncracies for a universal response when she wrote that "the reaction [to the program] is bound to be one of outrage."

To many Americans the revelations and the pros and cons regarding the CIA that were presented in this remarkable TV program are a two-fold testimonial to the strength of our democracy—on the one hand the strength to act vigorously and firmly in our own defense; on the other, the strength to expose these actions to critical analysis.

Such a testimonial is not a cause for outrage but for pride.

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